



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*

## COMMISSIONERS

Patricia Curry  
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Susan F. Friedman  
**Vice Chair**

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**Vice Chair**

Stacey Savelle  
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Dr. La-Doris McClaney  
Rev. Cecil L. Murray  
Dr. Maria Rochart  
Sandra Rudnick  
Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW  
Martha Trevino Powell  
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

## APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **February 22, 2010**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry	Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Ann Franzen	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Susan F. Friedman	Martha Trevino Powell
Helen A. Kleinberg	

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Dr. La-Doris McClaney	Stacey Savelle
Dr. Maria Rochart	Dr. Harriette F. Williams
Sandra Rudnick	

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:07 a.m.

## **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Self introductions were made.

## **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- **February 22, 2010**

### Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, the agenda for February 22, 2010, was unanimously approved.

## **IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Curry reported the following:

500 West Temple Street, Hall of Administration, Room B-22, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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[www.lachildrenscommission.org](http://www.lachildrenscommission.org)

- Commissioners are to complete the Statement of Economic Interest (California Form 700) and any related documents; forms must be submitted to Commission Staff as soon as possible.
- The Probation Commission has a new liaison that will attend Commission for Children and Families' meetings. This liaison will keep them informed of any issues of concern to both the LA County Children and Families Commission and the Probation Commission.
- The following organizational changes within the Chief Executive Office Clusters have been made:
  1. Jackie White, former Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO) of the Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster has been reassigned to DCEO of the Public Safety Cluster.
  2. Kathy House, former CEO of the Service Integration Branch (SIB), has been reassigned to Acting DCEO of the Children and Families' Well-Being Cluster.
  3. Lesley Blacher, CEO, has been moved from the SIB to Interim CEO of the Integration Cluster.
  4. Darolyn Jensen, CEO, has been assigned to assist the new Chief Probation Officer.
  5. Brence Culp, former DCEO of the Public Safety Cluster is assigned as Acting Chief Deputy Chief Executive Officer in the CEO.
- Cal Remington is the Interim Chief Probation Officer; Donald Blevins will be sworn in as the new Chief Probation Officer on April 19, 2010.
- The Commission has two meetings scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2010: a Crossover Youth meeting and a meeting comprised of a group of individuals from the Probation Department and the Commission for Children and Families. Both meetings will be held in the Children's Planning Council Conference Room B-26.
- The State has eliminated the Independent Living Program (ILP) Stipend budget (estimated to be \$4.4 million), and the Transitional Housing Placement Plus (THP-Plus) budget.

Chair Curry welcomed Michael Wrice the new Commission liaison from the Department of Children and Family Services.

**Action Taken:**

Chair Curry's verbal report was received and filed.

**V. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**• Follow-Up Discussion on Title IV-E Waiver and Crossover Youth from the 1/11/10 and 1/25/10 Meetings**

Chair Curry welcomed stakeholders and County Department representatives, Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey, USC (School of Social Work); Bonnie Armstrong, Casey Family Programs; Lisa Parrish and Maryam Fatemi, DCFS; and Sharon Harada, Probation, who participated in the discussion.

She reported that:

- DCFS has \$20 million earmarked for Fiscal Year 2010-11, totaling \$14 million in Family Preservation funds, \$2.5 million in PIDP, and the remainder in programs such as the Youth Permanency and TDM Facilitator. Excerpts of the January 25, 2010, meeting minutes regarding the DCFS update on the Title IV-E Waiver were distributed ([copy on file](#)).
- Focused Family Finding and Engagement through the Pilot Specialized Youth Permanency (YP) Units at three DCFS Regional Offices have proven effective. DCFS should allocate additional funding to expand this Pilot to other Regional Offices to better serve the youth exiting the system. Page 2 of a Progress Report dated July 15, 2009, was distributed ([copy on file](#)).

Ms. Fatemi, DCFS, added that YP units have done an incredible job in getting youth permanent plans, and suggested that YP present at a future Commission meeting. She added that education is critical for youth development and self-sufficiency.

DCFS Director Ploehn added that permanency is preferable as opposed to permanent placement, and that the P3 (Permanent Placement Partners) Program has been very effective, but it is not large enough to accommodate the number of County youth.

Discussion ensued on Title IV-E Waiver Funding and its impact on the Crossover Youth population. The following was highlighted:

**Lisa Parrish, DCFS**

- DCFS is in its third year of the Title IV-E Waiver, and has two more years to go, with the goal of extending the Waiver for additional years.
- DCFS will direct part of its Waiver budget to reducing front-end caseloads.
- To ensure youth development and self-sufficiency, blending of funds and integration of services is critical to ensure that programs receive an equal share and equal attention.

**Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey, USC, (School of Social Work)**

- There is currently no focus on youth development in Los Angeles County, especially, First 5.
- The Youth Justice Coalition is considering of the formation of a County department dedicated to youth development given the statistics that over a million youth in contact with County departments find programs are not available; the system is fragmented.

**Bonnie Armstrong, Casey Family Foundation**

- Although there is a County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for the unincorporated areas in LA County, and a City WIB for the City of Los Angeles, a large population of youth is not being served by these agencies. County Counsel noted that there are seven (7) WIBs serving Los Angeles County.

**Sharon Harada, Probation**

- Probation Department's Juvenile Justice Crime Program (JJCP) has been successful in job placement for transitioning youth. Statistics on JJCP can be presented at a future meeting. Probation Department is assisting foster youth with transitioning.

Chair Curry distributed a copy of a document detailing the Probations Department's Administration Budget under the Waiver for FY 07-08 through FY 11-12, and the Probation Assistance Expenditures for FY 07-08 ([copy on file](#)).

**Action Taken:**

The Commission received and filed verbal reports by stakeholders and County Department staff.

In addition, the Commission requested that:

- The Commission draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending the formation of a Committee to discuss Youth Development.
- The Probation Department find aftercare funds to service youth after they leave the system, and that statistics on youth serviced through JJCP be presented at a future meeting.
- DCFS allocate additional funding to expand Focused Family Finding and Engagement through Specialized Youth Permanency (YP) Units to other Regional Offices to better serve youth exiting the system.

## VI. PRESENTATION

- **Update on DCFS' Strategic Plan**

**Lisa Parrish, DCFS**  
**Mitch Mason, DCFS**

Lisa Parrish, DCFS, reported the following:

A four-level Strategic Plan developed by DCFS titled the "Evolving Shared Core Practice Model" was distributed ([copy on file](#)), which are:

- Level 1 – Core Practice Model – Values, Principles, and Standards.
- Level 2 – Core Competencies; Enhanced skill-based training for all line staff (SNP, engaging, teaming – and Coaching and Mentoring).
- Level 3 - Protocols. This is similar to the desk guides that agencies in Oklahoma and Tennessee have developed.
- Level 4 – Quality Service Review (QSR). Roll-out of QSR is planned for all offices in late 2010 and throughout 2011.

DCFS' Office of Strategy Management (OSM) is working on this strategic plan with five goals in mind: 1) Improved child safety, 2) Decreased timelines to permanence, 3) Reduced reliance on out-of-home care, 4) Increased child and family well-being, and 5) Enhanced organizational excellence. [Copy on file.](#)

DCFS is collaborating with the Department of Mental Health on a shared core practice model.

Clerical staff and multi-level support staff have been trained on the new Strategic Plan; the new plan goes beyond front-line social work staff.

### **Action Taken:**

The Commission received and filed DCFS' Strategic Plan Update.

In addition, the Commission requested that Item 6 of the "Practice Standards for CSW's," should ensure that the CSWs speak the language of the case family.

## VII. **MOTION TO APPROVE A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOMMENDING A PROBATION OMBUDSMAN FOR PROBATION CAMPS AND JUVENILE HALLS**

A copy of a draft letter was distributed ([copy on file](#)).

The following amendments were made at the request of Commissioner Biondi:

- The last sentence in Paragraph 1 was revised to read, "This is particularly important in light of the issues raised over the past couple of years regarding the camps and halls by the Department of Justice (DOJ) **Correction Standards Authority, and the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) lawsuit** which directly relate to services and conditions."

- The last sentence in Paragraph 2 was revised to read, “The Commission respectfully requests that your Board direct the Auditor-Controller’s Office to conduct an independent review of the procedures, reports, and phone service currently being used by the in-house Probation Ombudsman and make recommendations to improve services and ensure an independent investigation of complaints **for the youth in the Juvenile Halls and Camps.**”
- On Paragraph 3, was revised to read, “The Commission believes that assistance from the Auditor-Controller can provide quality control oversights and a more independent approach would assist the new **Director of Chief of Probation** in identifying systemic issues in the camps and halls. It would also provide an important service for the youth.”

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Vice Chair Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Sorkin, and unanimously carried, the letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending a Probation Ombudsman was unanimously approved, as revised.

**VIII. MOTION TO APPROVE A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING A REPORT BY THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY INSTITUTE RELATING TO PROPOSITION 63 (MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT) AND TRANSITION AGE FOSTER YOUTH (TAFY)**

A copy of the draft letter was distributed ([copy on file](#)).

Sandra Thomas, Deputy Director, DMH, Transition Age Youth System of Care (TAY-SOC), addressed the Commission and noted that the report did not reflect current information, but data gathered from the 2006-07 report. In addition, the report distinguishes between TAY and TAFY; it shows that more TAY youth were served than TAFY youth. The report made no effort to distinguish TAFY as a critical population.

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Biondi, seconded by Vice Chair Freidman, (Vice Chair Olivas abstained) the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the CAI was duly approved.

**IX. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- **October 19, 2009**

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, the October 19, 2009, minutes were unanimously approved with the following corrections:

- On Page 4, line 2, revise to read, “Several Commissioners commented that Independent Living Program (ILP) funding was available via **KingGAP** **KinGAP.**

- On Page 4, bullet 3, revise sentence to read, “She added that the highest percentage of children **in one of the camps** crossing over from DCFS to Probation in an individual is 70 percent.”
- On Page 4, bullet 6, revise sentence to read, "Prevention is equally important as therapy: child abuse cases are ~~50%~~ **29%** of children 5 years and younger.”

- **January 11, 2010**

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, the January 11, 2010, minutes were unanimously approved.

- **January 25, 2010**

**Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Vice Chair Olivas, the January 25, 2010, minutes were unanimously approved.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Franzen announced the next “Healthy Lifestyles” training organized by the Faith-Based, Relative Care, and Childhood Wellness Committees is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2010, at the Calvary Baptist Church in Bellflower at 10:00 a.m. Healthy Trainings will be given in all 8 SPAs; an additional six trainings are forthcoming.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 12:00 p.m.